

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/076925 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q 1/68**,
C12P 19/34, C07H 21/04

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/003567

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(22) International Filing Date: 4 February 2005 (04.02.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/541,999 4 February 2004 (04.02.2004) US

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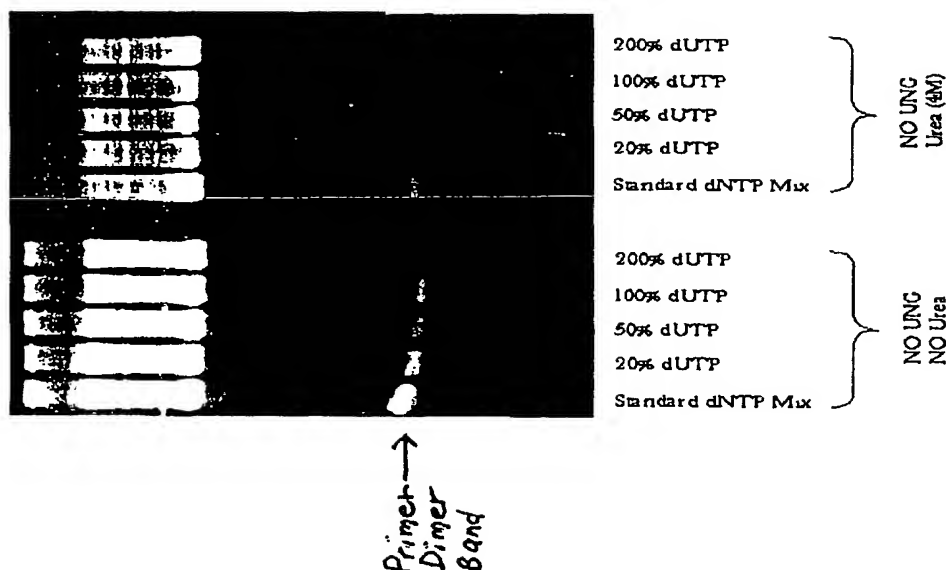
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(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DUTP BASED COMPOSITIONS FOR REDUCING PRIMER-AGGREGATE FORMATION DURING NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION



(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions are provided for enhanced specificity and sensitivity of amplification reaction mixtures. Compositions in accordance with the present invention provide for reduced formation of primer-aggregates during amplification reactions. Reaction mixes include dNTPs, where a portion of the dNTPs has been replaced with an unconventional nucleotide, e.g., dUTP. Unconventional nucleotide concentrations are typically between 10 % to 50 % of the concentration of one of the standard dNTP. In some compositions the unconventional nucleotide is dUTP which replaces from about 10 % to about 50 % of the dTTP in the dNTP mix.

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European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations*

Published:

— *with international search report*

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i)) for all designations*
- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for all designations*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 October 2005

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